

**THEO692: Faith and Fiction**

<b>Instructor</b>	Dr. Brent Laytham and the EI faculty
<b>Schedule</b>	Tuesdays, 6-9 pm (May 19, 26; June 2, 9, 16, 23, 30; July 7, 14, 21)
<b>Description</b>	This course explores theological and ethical dimensions of popular fictions, including short stories, novels, and movies. Each week the class analyzes and interprets one fiction using theological categories, asking both how faith illuminates our reading of the 'text,' and how this fiction contributes to our understanding of God and the world. The course is convened and coordinated by Dr. Laytham, with 9 EI faculty teaching a favorite fiction.
<b>Requirements</b>	Reading: Students will read around 1,000 pages of novels and short stories, and should come to class prepared to discuss them. There may be some very brief secondary readings/interpretations (less than 100 pages). Viewing: Students will watch 5 movies and come to class prepared to discuss them.
	Writing: Students will prepare about a page for each fiction (= 10 pages), and write a final short paper or project (8-10 pages).
	Other Assignments: Students will make one presentation (5-10 minutes), intended to foster additional discussion of a text.

**Required Texts:**

This course will engage the following fictions. Novels are listed by author and italicized; students may read the novels and short stories in any edition (but may not substitute a movie version for reading or hearing read the novel). Movies are listed by title (with date of publication), and are typically available in multiple formats (including streaming services or library DVD collections). (Students who live near each other are encouraged to consider having movie nights together to 'do their homework.')

May 19	J.R.R. Tolkien, <i>The Hobbit</i> (with Dr. Hancock)
May 26	"Stranger than Fiction" (2006) and a short story TBA
June 2	"Wall-E" (2008) (Dr. McNeel)
June 9	Virginia Evans, <i>The Correspondent</i> (Dr. Brown)
June 16	"Daughters of the Dust" (1991) (Dr. Sutherland)
June 23	selections (about 40 pp) from Dostoevsky, <i>The Brothers Karamazov</i> (Dr. Bell)
June 30	TBD short story by Wendell Berry (Dr. Joel Shuman)
July 7	"The Matrix" (1999) (Dr. Poling)
July 14	"The Color Purple" (1985) (Dr. Hunt)
July 21	C.S. Lewis, <i>The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe</i> [novel, not the movie!] (Dr. Mark Gorman)